22nd. Evening at Madame de Laborde's, where the Marquis de Cubières sang very well.

When Madame d'Osmond was to be presented

seductions and temptations by which she was surrounded, and none was more respected when she fell. It was surely permitted at the age of seventy-nine to indulge in a little gossip and to criticise the conduct of those who, perhaps with infinitely less right, exhibited greater pretensions to virtue. It is, I believe, admitted that Madame de la Vallidre, from her first presentation at Court to the last moment of her life, continued most constant both to the person and memory of her royal lover. Although the history of her *liaison* with Louis XIV. and her abandonment by that dissolute and capricious monarch is too well known to require comment, perhaps the following lines addressed by her to Louis, when he left her for Madame de Montespan, may be less familiar. The lines, however, were not written by herself, but by the celebrated Gabrielle d'Estr6es, who, under similar circumstances, addressed them to Henry IV. I say that they were composed by Gabrielle because they may be seen, written by her own hand, on the margin of the splendid MS. volume of the Orations of Isocrates, which belonged to her, and which is now preserved in the Ambrosian Library. I have retained the orthography of the MS., as it adds to the quaintness and even to the tenderness of the expressions : *

De vraye amour aultre amour r6ciproque,
C'est le parfait de son plus grand desir;
Mais, si 1'amour de 1'aultre amour se moque,
Pour ung amour trop moing digne choisir,
C'est ung ennuy qui ne donne loysir,
Temps, ne repos pour trouver recomfort.
Le d6sespoir est pire que la mort,
Et jalouzie est ung vraye d6sespoir.
O foy rompue 1 O trop apparent tort,
Pour vous me fault pis que mort recepvoir!

* **This** cannot be Madame de la Vallidre, mistress of Louis XIV., she **having**

died in 1710.—NOTE BY PUBLISHER.